



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE, ATF AND CHARLOTTE-MEKLENBURG PD TEAM UP TO NAB 3 DANGEROUS GANG MEMBERS LIVING IN CHARLOTTE *Multi-agency effort part of "Operation Community Shield"*

CHARLOTTE, NC—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced that a multi-agency anti-gang effort conducted last week resulted in the arrests of three dangerous North Carolina gang members.

The arrests were made by special agents of ICE, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and officers of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department Gang Unit.

Among the arrested was 22-year-old Edgar Turcious-Giron, a citizen of Honduras who is linked to the dangerous "Mara Salvatrucha" (MS-13) gang. Turcious-Giron illegally re-entered the United States in March 2002 after being ordered deported by an immigration judge in Sept. 2001. His case will be presented to the U.S. Attorney's Office for prosecution on illegal re-entry after deportation charges.

Also arrested was Juan Parra-Lara, 24, and Antonio Lara-Vargas, 19, both citizens of Mexico and members of the violent "Surenos" (SUR-13) gang. Both entered the country without inspection and will be placed in administrative removal proceedings.

"We will leave no stone unturned until we identify and arrest gang members that are terrorizing our community," said Jeff Jordan, ICE assistant special agent-in-charge in North Carolina. "We will continue to work closely with our law enforcement partners to ensure that the innocent are protected."

Those arrested are in ICE custody awaiting the outcomes of their cases.

These arrests are part of "Operation Community Shield," an ICE national anti-gang initiative launched in March of this year to target members of the MS-13 gang. To date, ICE special agents,

working with their federal, state and local counterparts have arrested more than 155 MS-13 members nationwide.

Operation Community Shield is designed to disrupt and dismantle violent gang organizations and prosecute their members by employing the full range of authorities and investigative tools available to ICE. Under this initiative, ICE is employing its broad immigration authorities, both criminal and administrative, against gang members

Operation Community Shield draws on strong partnerships and cooperation with existing federal, state, and local anti-gang efforts. Such partnerships are essential to the success of the initiative and to ensure officer safety during operations.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.